

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 13976 231608Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 AF-10
/096 W
-----018824 232152Z /72

R 231430Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBSSY CAIRO
RO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8627
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 13976

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG IS XF MPOL
SUBJ: POLCOUNS MEETING WITH MAJ. GEN. MAGDUB

1. DURING CALL BY POLCOUNS AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS SEPARATE SUBJECT, MAJ. GEN. TAHA MAGDUB MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS OF INTEREST ON PEACE PROCESS. MAGDUB, WHO HAS TAKEN NEW JOB AS SECGEN OF PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL, IS NOT ONLY ONE OF GAMASY'S CHIEF STAFF AIDES, BUT OBVIOUSLY ENJOYS GAMASY'S CONFIDENCE. HIS COMMENTS ARE REPORTED BLEOW.

2. NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL. IT IS HEADED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND HAS EXISTED FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER, IT HAS NOT HAD PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND MAGDUB HAS BEEN APPOINTED ITS SECRETARY GENERAL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECRUITING AND ORGANIZING STAFF. HE STILL IS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DOING SO, PARTLY BECAUSE OF TIME REQUIRED FOR HIS OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 13976 231608Z

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH IS TO PREPARE FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. MAGDUB SAID HE ALSO CONTINUES TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SFM, UNEF AND OTHER ORGS IN SINAI, BUT NOT OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILTY WHICH HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO MAJ. GEN. HASSAN KHATIB.

3. MEPC. WITHIN PAST MONTH HIS OPTIMISM ABOUT GENEVA AND

SETTLEMENT PROSPECTS HAS TURNED TO MILD PESSIMISM BECAUSE OF
(A) BEGIN GOVERNMENT AND HARD-LINE POSITIONS IT HAS TAKEN
AND (B) THE "UNCLEAR POSITION" THAT U.S.S. IS ADOPTING IN FACE
OF ISRAELI ACTIONS. ARABS CANNOT ACCEPT THAT IF U.S. ADMIN-
ISTRATION WISHES TO INFLUENCE ISRAELI STAND IT CANNOT DO SO.
ISRAELIS, "WHOM I KNOW WELL", WILL KEEP PRESSING ON ALL
FRONTS UNTIL FORCED TO BACK DOWN. "SLIGHT CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM"
EXISTS ONLY BECAUSE HIS SUPERIORS KEEP PRESSURE ON HIM FOR
COMPLETION OF PRE-GENEVA WORK IN MAXIMUM OF TWO MONTHS. HE
SPECULATES THEREFORE THAT HIS SUPERIORS MAY HAVE REASON FOR
OPTIMISM OF WHICH HE UNAWARE. IT IS NOW ALMOST TWO YEARS
SINCE SIGNING OF SINAI II AGREEMENT AND GOE PATIENCE IN AB-
SENCE OF ANY NEW MOVEMENT IS WEARING THIN. FURTHERMORE, THERE
IS NO DISCERNABLE JUSTIFICATION FOR MORE DELAYS.

4. ARMS BALANCE IN ANY ME SETTLEMENT: MAGDUB REVEALED LITTLE
ABOUT ACTUAL WORK IN PREPARATION FOR GENEVA ONLY SAYING THAT
THERE WERE MANY ISSUES THAT HAD TO BE STUDIED, INCLUDING
WITHDRAWAL AND ARMS BALANCE. ARMS BALANCE, IN PARTICULAR
VERY DIFFICULT SINCE ISRAEL FACES THREAT ONLY FROM ARAB
STATES. IF AGREEMENT REACHED, THREAT TO ISRAEL WILL
DISAPPEAR. HOWEVER, ARAB STATES, PARTICULARLY EGYPT, FACE
MANY OTHER SECURITY THREATS; E.G. LIBYA, ETHIOPIA AND PER-
HAPS SOVIET UNION, AT LEAST INDIRECTLY.

5. ISRAELI ACTIVITY IN SINAI. ISRAELIS ARE MOST ACTIVE IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 13976 231608Z

THE RAFAH AREA BUT ALSO IN THEIR OIL OPERATIONS AT AL-TUR
AND AT SHARM AL-SHAYKH. ISRAELIS WILL ATTEMPT TO STAY IN
ALL OF THESE AREAS, BUT IF FORCED TO WITHDRAW UNDER PRESSURE
WILL THEN USE THESE INSTALLATIONS AS BARGAINING WEAPONS.

6. JOINT COMMISSION. JOINT COMMISSION HAS NOT MET SINCE
DECEMBER 1976 AND IT IS UNLIKELY TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR
FUTURE. FROM GOE POINT OF VIEW, IT IS A WASTE OF TIME SINCE
ISRAELI SIDE DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS, BUT
CAN ONLY GO BACK TO HIGHER AUTHORITY. MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE
MEANS OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS IS THROUGH INTERMEDIARY OF
GENERAL SIILASVUO, AS PROVEN BY RECENT AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL
CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL FOR E-1. MAGDUB SAID SIILASVUO HAD
SUCCEEDED IN RESOLVING THIS ISSUE. BUT DID NOT GIVE DETAILS.
(COMMENT: THIS IS CONTRADICTORY TO OUR MOST RECENT INFO
THAT GOI HAD AGREED SUBJECT TO ISSUE BEING DECIDED IN JOINT
COMMISSION AND THAT IT BE GIVEN SIMILAR RIGHT WHEN REQUIRED
AT J-1.)

7. 32ND UNGA. MAGDUB HAD SUGGESTED TO GAMASY THAT PERHAPS
IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO ACCOMPANY FONMIN FAHMY TO
UNGA. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER GAMASY WAS PURSUING SUGGESTION

BUT HE, MAGDUB, DID NOT HAVE INTENTION OF RAISING IT AGAIN.

EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO13976
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770304-1012
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770835/aaaabcva.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40056956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1521066
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLCOUNS MEETING WITH MAJ. GEN. MAGDUB
TAGS: MPOL, EG, IS, XF, US, (MAGDUB, TAHA)
To: STATE AMMAN
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40056956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009